



March 8, 2022

Hon. Representative McCarthy Vahey  
Hon. Senator Cassano  
Hon. Members of Planning and Development Committee

**Re: HOUSE BILL HB 5359: AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF THE  
FEASIBILITY OF PERMITTING THE ONLINE ADVERTISEMENT OF  
LEGAL NOTICES BY MUNICIPALITIES.**

Dear Chairs and members of Planning and Development Committee:

On behalf of the Connecticut Association of Zoning Enforcement Officials (CAZEO), we are writing to you to express our support of **House Bill 5359**.

CAZEO was founded in 1979 as the professional organization representing individuals employed as Zoning Enforcement Officers throughout the State of Connecticut. Currently, CAZEO has over 160 members which represent over 140 communities throughout Connecticut.

For several years, there has been attempts to move public noticing requirements away from printed form to town websites. Each time this concept has been raised, CAZEO has supported efforts to modernize how government shares information with the public. It is time that this issue is addressed.

COVID-19 provided communities with several challenges surrounding how do we increase our digital footprint. The use of remote meetings and posting of information associated with meetings on town websites enable commissions to reach a larger audience. With these efforts, our members experienced an increase of participation of a better-informed public.

In the past we have provided figures that show on average communities are spending more than \$15,000.00 per year (sometimes per land use commission) on

advertisement costs. With subscription numbers decreasing, the money spent on legal advertisement is not reaching the number of members of the public that it is intended to. Posting on town websites in leu of posting in the newspapers will better assist in reaching a greater audience.

The General Assembly already does what is it the towns are asking. As members can see, you are reaching the public. Information is still being exchanged, no one's due process is being violated and it is working. It is time that communities can follow the same standards.

We support asking OPM to study the issue and hope that a report with recommendations will be generated in a timely manner that may assist with implementation of this change.

In closing, CAZEO asks that members of Planning and Development please consider the points above when deliberating **House Bill 5359**.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Michael Glidden, CZEO CFM  
Vice President / Legislative Liaison  
CAZEO